

# LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

## Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **October 9, 2007**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 11

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

**ITEM TITLE: Regional Solid Waste Initiative - Appropriations for Implementation of the Region 2000 Services Authority**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt a resolution to amend the FY 2008 Solid Waste Management Fund Operating budget and appropriate \$2,409,322 with resources of \$2,409,322 from the Reserve for Regional Waste Management Authority for the work necessary to create the Region 2000 Services Authority during FY 2008.

**SUMMARY:** For the past three plus years the Local Government Council (Region 2000), working with the Solid Waste Directors for the Counties of Amherst, Campbell, Nelson and the Cities of Bedford and Lynchburg, has explored the feasibility of managing solid waste on a regional perspective. The working group first conducted an internal study exploring various options including burning waste for energy, transferring the waste out of the region, or operating the current landfills jointly. After the in-house study was completed, the Local Government Council contracted with solid waste consultant R. W. Beck Inc. to perform a more extensive verification study (Phase I) to determine which (if any) of the options would be the most cost effective. It was determined that operating the region's landfills jointly was the best and most cost effective option and should be explored in more detail.

R. W. Beck was then contracted to conduct a more detailed analysis (Phase II) to determine the steps and costs of forming a regional entity to manage solid waste disposal. They conducted a thorough review of current operations and developed a detailed operations plan with associated costs. They also coordinated a meeting between staff at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and local representatives to discuss the regulatory requirements for this type of operation. The report concluded that meaningful cost saving opportunities for all the localities involved could result from such a cooperative effort.

Amherst County requested an alternative analysis be completed to determine if keeping the Amherst County landfill open in conjunction with the Lynchburg landfill was a feasible option. This was requested out of concern regarding potential increases in traffic going to and from their landfill adversely affecting a local neighborhood. The analysis has been completed and finds the regional solid waste management approach remains viable while allowing Amherst County's landfill to remain open. There is a slight increase in cost per ton with this approach with Amherst County covering this increased cost.

Subsequently, DEQ required that a proof of concept be developed to evaluate regulatory issues and to ensure environmental protection. The proof of concept report was completed in December 2006 and submitted to DEQ with them stating in writing that they agree in principle with the concept and are committed to supporting the regional solid waste authority formation.

Consolidating solid waste operations regionally is beneficial for a number of reasons. The most obvious one is the cost savings. Regional cooperation and protection of health and the environment are also important benefits. Operating a small landfill continues to become more costly as regulations are tightened. A regional operation takes advantage of economies of scale to control costs. Additionally a regional entity could better focus on long range planning for our next generation of waste disposal.

Amherst County voted on September 18, 2007 not to join the Region 2000 Services Authority.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

- Local Government Council and solid waste staff (from localities) explored various options
- Phase I Report completed by R. W. Beck in April 2005
- Phase II Report completed by R. W. Beck in May 2006
- Region 2000 Proof of Concept Report in December 2006 with DEQ response in January 2007
- City Council approved funding to implement the Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative in February 2007
- City Council approved resolution adopting Articles of Incorporation establishing the Region 2000 Services Authority and entering into a Member Use Agreement on July 10, 2007
- Finance Committee, October 2, 2007

FISCAL IMPACT:

Considerable long term savings for City of Lynchburg and participating members regarding solid waste disposal activities

CONTACT(S):

Dave Owen, Director of Public Works, 455-6078

ATTACHMENT(S):

Resolution

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED That the FY 2008 Solid Waste Management Operating Budget is amended and \$2,409,322 is appropriated with resources of \$2,409,322 from the Reserve for Regional Waste Management Authority for the work necessary to create the Region 2000 Services Authority during FY 2008.

Introduced:

Adopted:

Certified:

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Clerk of Council

129L